

# LOWELL RYAN PROJECTS

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## Molly Surazhsky's Solo Exhibition *Miss Americhka* Opens at Lowell Ryan Projects

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Written by [Guest](#)



Molly Surazhsky, *The Storm Has Arrived*, 2022

Molly Surazhsky (Art BFA 19) combines self-portraiture and performance art in *Miss Americhka*, her first solo exhibition with Lowell Ryan Projects. Running from Jan. 7 through Feb. 11, her exhibition utilizes sculpture, photography, installation, and digitally printed textile-based works to critique America's current political landscape.

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Based in Los Angeles and Brooklyn, New York, Surazhsky derives the title from her grandmother's nickname for America—"Americhka." Her work is an interplay of research and criticism around the corporatization of working-class lives, America's interference in international and Russian affairs, the opposing philosophies of capitalism and socialism, and the themes of hypocrisy, propaganda, class, health-care, and survival.



Surazhsky in front of a Civil War era Rodman gun cannon, performing *Miss Americhka*



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Her exhibition features her current primary works: *Miss Americhka*, *Dermokratizatsiya (Shitocracy)*, *Slava Culture War!*, and *Freudian Slip*.



Surazhsky performing *Miss Americhka* in Brooklyn, New York, 2022



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*Miss Americhka* is a dress made of satin and organza fabric that was first presented and performed on July 4, 2022, as a Fourth of July intervention at the Fort Hamilton Army Base in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

*Dermokratizatsiya (Shitocracy)* is composed of digitally printed satin and organza ribbons, measuring 10 feet in height. The installation investigates America's involvement in Russian politics after the fall of the USSR, specifically in the election of Boris Yeltsin, the globalization of American culture, and the upheaval of that era.

*Slava Culture War!* is a gown with a 40-foot train that hangs on a life-size model of the artist. The fabric is a visual display of numerous flags, symbols, cultural figures and moments, Mark Fisher's essay, "Exiting the Vampire Castle," and an image of Surazhsky re-enacting Sarah Palin's infamous American flag and bikini photoshopped photo.



Molly Surazhsky wearing *Slava Culture War!*, 2022 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, 2022

*Freudian Slip* features Surazhsky in a bondage-style costume, pulling back a red curtain on a collection of sadomasochistic social justice-informed phrases. She



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photoshopped Doomer Wojak's face onto an image of Roy Disney revealing the original CalArts architectural model, now holding Sigmund Freud's *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*.

Surazhsky's work has been exhibited at ArtCenter Pasadena, The Wende Museum, Hunter Shaw Fine Art, Torrance Art Museum, and Havana, Cuba. Her work has been discussed in publications including *Hyperallergic*, *LA Weekly*, *Contemporary Art Review Los Angeles*, and *KCRW*.

—*Ishika Muchhal*

## EVENT DETAILS

### Molly Surazhsky's *Miss Americhka*

#### Exhibition

Saturday, Jan. 7—Saturday, Feb. 11

Lowell Ryan Projects

4619 W. Washington Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016

#### Opening Reception

Saturday, Jan. 7, 5-7 pm

Lowell Ryan Projects

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